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3. Children's angling (ngǎ́k IV)

Ntum and Fang boys catch small fish with tackle made of porcupine quills. The quills are broken off near the top and are held together in the form of a hook by means /111/ of the firm root fibers of the Aracea Rhectophyllum mirabile N.E. Brown (ndḗs IV, klēs IV).

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4. Fishing tackle (nlŏ́b I)

The Jaunde know tackle similar to ours, consisting of a line, pole, hook, and floater, and according to information provided by my Jaunde, it was in use even before the Whites arrived. The tackle of the Fang and Ntum (Fig. 59) is considerably different; their hook is held down on the river bottom by means of a stone fastened to the line. In former times they also had a floater but more recently this has for the most part been given up as useless. With the line in his hand, the angler crouches on a raft or canoe that lies hidden in the bushes by the bank. Worms are used everywhere for bait.

5. Rope tackle or hanging tackle (ekĕ́le nlŏ́b, elŭ́n nlŏ́b

This differs from the tackle just mentioned only in that the line is attached to a liana rope stretched across the river. It hangs in the water, held in place by the stone which acts as a sinker.

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6. Spearing and shooting

The Pangwe spears larger fish from the river bank or from a tree trunk lying in the water, or he shoots them with a gun or a crossbow. By the way of a postscript I shall also mention the fact that in shallow water fish are killed with the cutlass.

7. Fish poison (ngŭ̀m IV)

226 278 Catching fish by poisoning the water is a practice that is universal throughout the Pangwe region, but it is not done frequently because suitable places are not found everywhere. Such places are basins or inlets closed off by rocks, where the stream flows slowly. The Distichodus hypostomatus Pellegr. /Fig. 59 appears here in the original text/ (mbŭ̀n), Plate 9, finds a habitat especially to its liking between the rocks in these basins and inlets, and it is caught there chiefly by poisoning. The name is derived from an herb (ngŭ̀m) which is supposed to occur in the Jaunde region and is used there for killing fish. Subsequently, the name became a general word for all fish poisons. In the south the following plants are used as poisons.

1. Husks of the Leguminosae Pachyelasma tessmannii Harms (makō'ō̄ III which gives off a terrible stench like that of waste water. /112/
2. Fruit of a Rubiacea (oyŏ́), commonly used with 1 above.
3. Leaves and stalks of the Passifloraceae Ophiocaulon cissampeloides Hook. f. and Adenia lobata (Jacq.) Engl. (their name in common, undŭ̀ndŭ̀ or ŭ́ndóndŏ̀le a ndžik).
4. Leaves of Duverronia extensa (T. And.) Lieb., Acanthacea (ngŭ̀nekiằī'-nya-zăm IV) (1)

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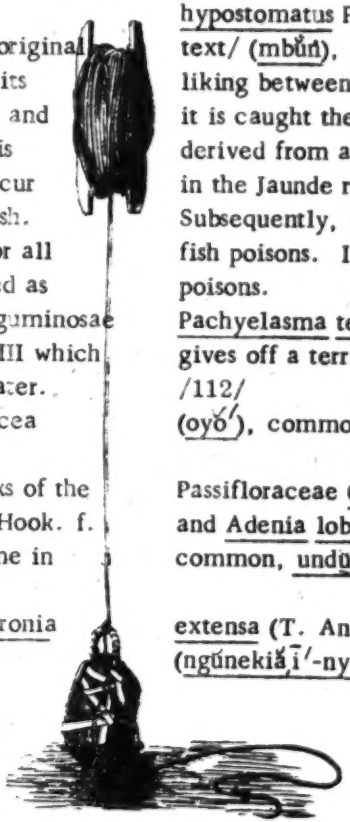

Fig. 59. Fishing Line.

1. The Acanthacea Lankesteria elegans (P. B.) T. And. (ngŭ̀nekiằī' IV) also seems to be poisonous for fish. According to information given by the Negroes,

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the leaves are rubbed to a power on rocks lying in the water; the fish (probably stupefied) then come to the surface and are killed with the cutlass.

rubbed into small pieces until foam forms; ordinarily used with 3 above.

5. Pieces of bark of the Piptadenia africana Hook. f., Leguminosae (tŭm IV).
6. Pieces of bark of the Rinorea dentata (P. B.) O. Ktze., Violaceae (olŭ ń), commonly used with 5 above.
7. Husks of the Leguminosae Tetrapleura thonningii Hook. f. (agbwā′ III, esisē′i) (2), rubbed to a powder.

2. Incidentally, these give off a lovely scent, like that of hot rolls, and in this respect they are just the opposite of Pachyelasma.

8. Leaves of the Leguminosae Tephrosia vogelii Hook. f. (ndăwōlō III) (3), rubbed to a powder.

3. From the stem a wólŏ, "to murder"; compare wŏle (Uelle), "the murderer."

7. Fish weir (olă′m)

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The greatest and most productive installation for catching fish, also the most complicated, is the fish weir (Fig. 60). It blocks the river crosswise and consists of three parts: the main weir (a), and two lateral weirs (b). These are walls made of logs or sticks placed close together, between which leaves or sheets of bark (main weir) are fastened. /Fig. 60 appears here in the original text./ Holes are cut out along the bottom of the lateral weirs, and baskets are placed in them. Just below the surface of the water the main weir extends into from one to four triangular screens (c) which are placed toward the current, slanting from the bottom

227 upwards in such a fashion that their tips just protrude above the water.

It goes without saying that such weirs can be built only when the water level is lowest. As soon as the water in the river rises, it carries many fish with it and /113/ drives those which are not caught in the baskets of the lateral weirs onto the screens where they often remain in large numbers and are simply picked up by the Negroes. They are reached by a special bridge built out from the bank or by climbing along the edge of the lateral weir.

227 423 This kind of fish weir occurs everywhere except in the north. Usually the chief induces a number of people to construct such a weir; these people then have the sole right of ownership to the fish weir and the fish. They do give their relatives and acquaintances, probably for nothing, a part of their catch, either from a sense of solidarity or because they expect that in similar circumstances they will be provided for in the same way. On the other hand they [425] demand payment from strangers, the amount depending on the size

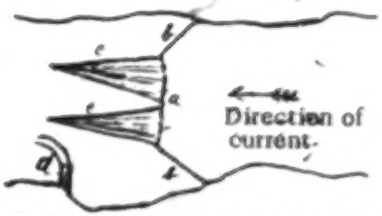

Fig. 60. Diagram of a Fish Weir in the Abea: (a) main weir, (b) lateral weirs, (c) screens of the main weir, (d) a tree growing on the bank and bent over the water.

of the fish, one or two spears (seven or 14 pfennigs) apiece. The major part of the catch is consumed immediately; the rest is [251 435] dried. Since fish spoil quickly in the tropics, only a very few leave the place where they are caught; another reason for this is that the uncertain conditions in the Fang area prevent regular trade (1).

1. There are no markets at all.

227 285 In addition to the contrivance just described, consisting of main and lateral weirs, one also encounters lateral weirs used by themselves

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285 as independent "basket weirs." They provide a less abundant catch, but on the other hand they are not restricted to a certain water level and for that reason give a regular supply. Three different kinds of basket are used in this kind of weir:

8. nkŏ́ɛ́ I = ordinary baskets,

9. ayắ′ = short fish baskets (Fig. 61),

10. nsŏ́ɲ́ I = long fish baskets (Fig. 62),

and usually two such kinds are used together.

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226 In smaller rivers or streams, such as the Miemie, a tributary of the Kje, nsŏ́ɲ́ and ayắ′ are laid, and in large rivers, a larger form of the ayắ′ and nkŏ́ɛ́. These two types of baskets are always used in one weir since experience has shown that one species of fish is more readily caught in one type of basket, while another species is more readily caught in the other. Only rarely is just one type of basket, such as the nsŏ́ɲ́, used exclusively. These long baskets, nsŏ́ɲ́, which may have a diameter up to 30 centimeters, are used with special frequency among the Jaunde, but also occur in the south. Usually from three to four baskets are placed in one weir, say, two ayắ′ and two nsŏ́ɲ́ (Fig. 63). At the same time it should be noted that the long baskets, nsŏ́ɲ́, lie with the opening towards the source, while the ayắ′ (like the nkŏ́ɛ́) are placed with the opening facing the river mouth, so the fish that are swimming upstream will also be caught. The weir that consists of ayắ′ and nsŏ́ɲ́ is designed for the following /114/ /Figs. 61 and 62 appear here in the original text/ creatures: spiny-finned sheatfish (collective name, kɔ̃́mɛ̌́ɲ́m IV) (1); Clarias walkeri (ngɔ̌́′); Synodontis

1. kɔ̃́(s)-a-mɛ̌́ɲ́m, that is, fish with spines on its back.

tessmanni Papp. (ngɔ̌́ɲ́, nwɔ̌́ɲ́ I); furthermore, Marcusenius sphekodes (Saus.) (ntɔ̌́ɔ́m); Gnathonemus moorii (Gthr.) (anɛ́′n); crawfish; common crabs; Palaemon shrimps (nwɔ̃́s); etc. Finally, Clariallabes longicaudatus Papp. (ndɔ̃́na I) are also caught in it.

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Fig. 61. Short Fish Basket.

Fig. 62. Long fish Basket Weirs.

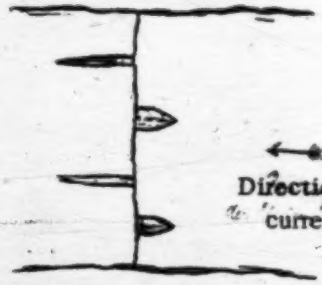

Fig. 63. Diagram of a Basket Weir.

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226 The baskets, nkŏ́é́, are the same size as the baskets of the same name used by the women in field work. They have a funnel through which the fish passes into the interior without being able to turn back. In these baskets mainly the following creatures are caught: Sarcodaces odoe (nsó I), Plate 9; Clarias walkeri, spiny-finned sheatfish; Xenocharax spilurus Gthr. (mfĭ́gắ, mfĭ́nga I); Anabas pleurostigma Blgr. (awŭ́n); Parauchenoglanis guttatus (Lönnbg.) (ebū́, evŭ́s); Eutropius banguelensis Blgr. (nkắde III; younger specimens = okié́ III); and common crabs. On the other hand, they do not catch Barbus guirali Thomin. (mvắắ III).

11. Basket trap (ngū́ắ IV)

The basket trap (Fig. 64) is a longish basket with a lid in front of the opening. The lid is pulled over the opening by means of a device set up on the river bank, following the pattern of spring traps, when a fish releases the lever system attached at the farther end of the basket. A snail is placed as bait inside the basket which is anchored to the bottom of the stream in water not too deep. This trap is principally designed to catch Clarias walkeri (ngŏ́) and common crabs (kā́da).

12. Catch basket (ngŭ́dĕgō III)

/Fig. 63 appears here in the original text./ This is a small basket with a funnel over the opening (Fig. 65), designed for the Clarias walkeri. It is placed in a river, baited with pieces of an ant nest (called dzā́k, ndzā́k IV), /115/ together with ants of the species Cremastogaster striatula Em. (esŏ́n, osŏ́n), or with pieces of tree termite nests (likewise called dzā́k).

The fish baskets, ayắ, are placed individually in the river in the same way. These are baited with cassava (1) or with twigs (without

1. Whole roots of dried cassava (ndzā́ắ mbŭ́n), boiled (agbwắma mbŭ́n) and cut into small pieces.

1: Tessmann--89 E-5 (1904-1909) 1913 FH9 Fang FH9

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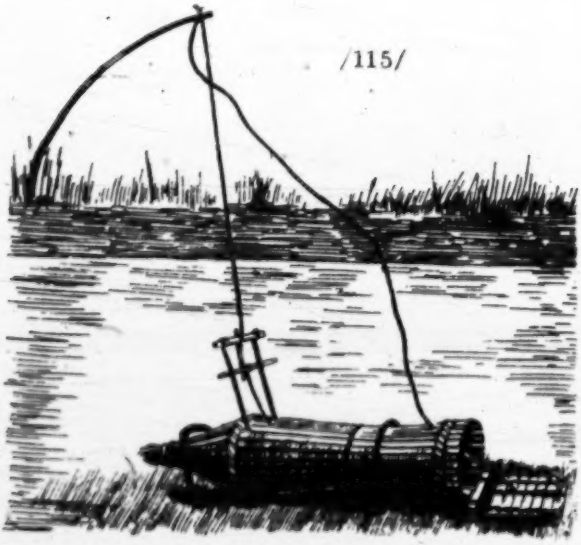

Fig. 64. Basket Trap for Fish.

Fig. 65. Catch Basket for Fish.

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226 leaves) of the Oxystigma buchholzii Harms, Leguminosae (pfũn IV). In this case the baskets are called ewũa-aya' (from a wũa, "to throw out"). /Fig. 64 appears here in the original text./

13. Giant fish baskets (edũgă, adũă)

Baskets from three to four meters long and from one to two meters wide, in other words, so large that they would hold from four to five people, are lowered into deep water where they are left for four days the first time and afterwards three days in each case. The entire basket is loosely filled with twigs of the Leguminosae Millettia thonningii Bak. (onĕmežǫk), the Impatiens dichroa Hook. f. (ejĕs), and especially the Euphorbiacea Cleistanthus angolensis M. Arg. (ngbă'de I); all are plants whose slime or leaves are eaten by the fish. Further, the baskets are filled with the leafy stalks of the cardamom, Aframomum albo-violaceum K. Sch. (adžŏm), or of the related Scitaminea Renealmia albo-rosea K. Sch. (adžŏm-mekūm), whose smell the fish love. Finally, also, they put into the baskets roots of the cassava and of the Euphorbiacea Uapaca guineensis Muell. Arg. (asă'm), around which the fish like to swim. The basket is open in front and is pulled out of the water open side first, so that the fish -- already hampered and confused by the tangle of roots and twigs -- cannot escape so readily. /Fig. 65 appears here in the original text./

14. Giant fish boxes (esĭé, bũũ III)

Boxes are sometimes used instead of the giant baskets. These are constructed of bark and are from three to four meters long, a meter and a half tall. Aside from their shape, they are distinguished from the baskets by a lid which is open in the water and is pulled shut when the box is drawn out of the water.

The giant fish boxes and baskets are not easy to construct or to manipulate, and for this reason they are not often seen.

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15. Fish ditches (mvēi IV., mvĕ)

Perpendicular to the direction of the river, a ditch (Fig. 66) is dug out and closed off from the river by a wall of bark (a) with a trap door in the middle. The ditch is furnished with bait, nests of the above-mentioned species of ants (c). Across the ditch a foot bridge is constructed (b). After the door has been left open for a number of days, it is closed one night from the foot bridge, and the fish are then taken from the ditch with a net. Again, the fish are chiefly Clarias walkeri and secondarily Marcusenius (ntotom). This method of catching fish is practiced only in the southern region.

Round fishing nets that are thrown and spread out like parachutes as they sink into the water, such as are used everywhere along the coast, are unknown to the Pangwe. The small round net which the women use for washing the cassava as well as for catching fish has already been mentioned. There remains to be discussed only one more fishing device.

16. Net trap (olăń)

This is a combination of a net with a scaffolding. The scaffolding is shown from the rear in Figure 67. It consists of three individual parts: the front gallows (a) with two cross beams (d); the back gallows (b) with the supporting lath (c); and the center piece. The latter is composed of the net hoop (f), the net attached to it (in the illustration it has not yet been fastened on), and three long raffia stalks fastened at (x): one free (g); and two others (e) which are tied to the net hoop at y and z and rest on top of the crossbeam (c). A person sitting on the front gallows can manipulate the net with the stick (g); by this means he can lower the net (Fig. 68) or, if it is not needed, he can raise it, push it between the poles (d), and then place it (g) back on c (Fig. 69). The scaffolding is erected in a stream in such fashion that the net will lie on the bottom. The stream itself is dammed off on both sides so the fish are driven into the net by the current. They are unable to escape from the net's sharply pointed bag /117/ (see Fig. 69). The net is called etĭtáne. For obvious reasons, only smaller fish are caught in the net trap which, if only because of its shape, cannot be called exceedingly practical.

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/Fig. 66 appears here in the original text./

Fig. 66. Diagram of a Fish Ditch: (a) bark wall with door, (b) bridge, (c) bait.

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IV. Trapping

After agriculture and fishing, the third most important economic activity is trapping which is exclusively carried out by the male part of the population. The various traps constructed by the Pangwe can be classified as follows:

A. Traps into which the prey falls
   1. Pitfalls (ebēi, ndǎ́n I)

B. Traps which work by dropping a beam, a plate, or a piece of iron
   2. Spring traps (ekūī dí)
   3. Spring plates (akui)
   4. Spear trap (elú́n)

C. Traps that consist of a draw noose
   5. Simple noose (asīma, etc.)
   6. Draw traps (olǎ́m)
      (a) Ground draw traps (olǎ́m) (1)

1. Not to be confused with the alǎ́m (fish weir).

      (b) Tree draw trap (nkpwǎ́s I)
      (c) Lemur trap (mbúń I)
   7. Francolin trap (ndǒ́n IV)
   8. Bow traps (ekīé́le)

D. Traps that sound an alarm
   9. Civet cat trap (nlín I)

8: Bennett D-5 (ca. 1898) 1899 FH9 Fang FH9

502 501 The mariner's compass is entirely unknown, and when I have shown one, it was always spoken of as "the white man's *biang bial*" (canoe fetish). The Fang shapes his course by his knowledge of the river banks; he never ventures more than three days' journey from his own town, and much dislikes the idea of losing sight of land; therefore he seldom, if ever, attempts it. Certain canoes belong to the headman of the village, others to individuals. The canoes do not have houses; [776] [702] charms are frequently tied to the bow, to appease the water spirit, and frequently a traveller in a canoe will throw into the river at certain places he passes portions of his food to appease the local spirit which he believes dwells there. The place where this spirit dwells may be in some large tree or rock on the river bank. At night the canoes are hauled up on the river bank and usually left unprotected. Large war canoes, if painted, are occasionally covered with a few mats. No special portion of a canoe is set apart for a chief, he is usually seated near the bow. Watertight compartments for provisions are not provided, food and articles of trade being carried in high baskets. Upon arrival of a canoe from a neighbouring town, the visitors are frequently welcomed with shouts of joy; guns are fired and a dance given in the evening. I have seen canoes repaired by placing pieces of bark over the leaks inside and outside, the bark being secured with small hard wood plugs. No arrangement is made to prevent leaking.

227 Hooks for fishing are skilfully made of bamboo, the barb is long, very sharp and notched on both sides. The hook is secured to the fishing-line with string made of pineapple fibre. Foreign-made fish-hooks are now largely used; these [939] are much coveted, and considered a very staple article of trade.

Casting nets are used weighed with stones, iron, or lead, obtained in trade. The meshes are very fine and show much skilful and patient workmanship. A Fang will work well at anything which he can do while sitting in the palaver house. He can then work, smoke and talk; any work requiring much bodily exertion on his part or elsewhere is relegated to his wives. Fish traps are made of split bamboo and much resemble the lobster baskets used by our own fishermen. [726] Small streams are often dammed at high water, the dam being made of split bamboo, fastened together with bush rope until a very large screen is made, 10 or 12 feet in height; this screen is staked across the stream at high water, when the tide falls the water passes readily through, leaving the fish in the river. The most disgusting sight among the Fang, is to see the women and children at low water walking in the mud, breast high, feeling for "mud fish." The large casting net is called *ewot*; a small round net used for dipping in pools and along the river bank at low water is called *tan*.

VI.—*Metallurgy, Fire, Machinery.*

325 326 Metallurgy among the Fang is limited to the working of iron. The native word for iron is *Eki*. The Fang among whom I lived did not possess the knowledge of smelting, but I was told that "other Fang far away in the bush, especially the Nqui dwarfs), dug the *minkok eki* (stones of iron) out of the earth, melted it, and